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## MARCH MEETING, 1879.

The stated monthly meeting was held at the Society's rooms on Thursday, the 13th instant, at 11 o'clock A. M. In the absence of the President, the Senior Vice-President, the HON. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, took the chair.

The Recording Secretary read the record of the previous meeting, and it was approved.

The Librarian reported the gifts to the library during the month, making special mention of General Rogers's "Private Libraries of Providence," a copy of which had been presented by the author, and of "Los Restos de Colon," which had been received by mail (probably from the Royal Academy of History at Madrid through our Minister, Mr. Lowell). This volume contains the much-expected report of that learned body on the coffin found in the Cathedral of St. Domingo some eighteen months ago, which was supposed to contain the earthly remains of the great discoverer. The report, which is signed by Manuel Colmeiro, presents some reasons for not accepting these relics as genuine, and gives an interesting account of the different resting-places of Columbus's remains. The appendix contains some documents from the Spanish archives not hitherto printed.

The Corresponding Secretary read letters from Professors Hermann von Holst and Moses Coit Tyler, accepting the membership to which they had been elected. He reported, also, that Col. T. W. Higginson had informed him of his removal into the Commonwealth, and that, by the Society's rule, he had thereby ceased to be a Corresponding Member.

The Cabinet-keeper reported that permission had been given to Mr. F. T. Merrill to copy the portrait of Governor Dudley in the Society's possession. He presented, also, a copy in silver of the medal struck by order of Congress in 1787, in honor of John Paul Jones's victory over the British frigate *Serapis*. This medal is rare, and does not appear in the series of French medals presented to Washington and now preserved in the Society's cabinet.\*

The Vice-President then announced the death, since the last meeting, of Colonel Brantz Mayer, of Baltimore, a

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\* A description of this and of other medals relating to America, by Mr. Appleton, may be found in the Proceedings for April, 1870, pp. 293-305. — EDS.

Corresponding Member. Colonel Mayer was born in 1809, and educated for the law. In 1841 he was appointed Secretary of Legation at Mexico, and spent a year in that country, of which he published afterward an account, "Mexico as it was and as it is." He was one of the founders, and for some years the President, of the Maryland Historical Society, to whose publications he contributed largely. His best known works, besides the account of Mexico, are "Mexico: Aztec, Spanish, and Republican"; "Captain Canot; or, Twenty Years of an African Slaver"; "Calvert and Penn"; and "Observations on Mexican History and Archæology." He was elected a Corresponding Member of this Society in June, 1867.

The following Committees were appointed in preparation for the Annual Meeting: To nominate a list of officers, Messrs. C. C. Perkins, Upham, and Chamberlain; to examine the Treasurer's accounts, Messrs. A. A. Lawrence and Chase.

The Recording Secretary announced that Mr. Winthrop, before starting on his journey to the South, had appointed Dr. Ellis to write the memoir of Dr. Jacob Bigelow, and Mr. Saltonstall to prepare that of Mr. Hillard, and desired these appointments to be placed upon the record.

The Rev. Dr. ELLIS presented, as a gift from Mr. Albert Phipps, of Newtonville, an ancient pair of scales for weighing gold and silver coin, once the property of Isaiah Tay, a Selectman of Boston in 1698, whose name is written on the bottom of the case in which the scales and weights were kept.

Mr. GEORGE B. CHASE presented, in the name of Mrs. George Tyler Bigelow, an unfinished but admirable portrait of Washington Allston, by Chester Harding, which our late associate had purchased at the sale of the artist's effects. The thanks of the Society were ordered for these acceptable gifts.

The Rev. E. E. HALE called the attention of the members to some preliminary sheets of the Catalogue of the Masters and Scholars of the Boston Public Latin School, issued for suggestions and corrections. He asked the aid of all interested in the school to make the new edition of the Catalogue as perfect as possible. He exhibited, also, the original of the quitclaim deed of the peninsula of Boston, given by Wampatuck and other Indians in 1685. This curious and interesting document, for an account of which the reader is referred to Drake's History of Boston, pp. 456, 457, was printed by Dr. Snow, in the Appendix to his History of Boston; but as there given it is modernized, and there are some words and

phrases omitted. Mr. Hale thought it might be interesting to have an exact copy of it. It belongs to General Charles G. Loring, who has kindly placed it at the Society's disposal.




The following is an exact copy of this instrument, the ancient spelling and punctuation being preserved:

To all to whome these Prēs<sup>ts</sup> shall come I CHARLES JOSIAS ALIAS JOSIAS WAMPATUCK soñe and Heire of Josias Wampatuck late Sachem of the Indians Inhabiting the Massachusetts in New England and Grandson of Chicatabut the fformer Sachem Send greeting. FORASMUCH as I am Informed, and well assured, from Severall Antient Indians, as well those of my Council as others, that upon the ffirst comeing of the English to sitt downe and settle in these parts of New England my Abovenamed Grandffather Chicatabut the Chiefe Sachem, by and with the Advice of his Councill for encouragement thereof, upon divers good causes, and Considerations, him thereunto moveing. DID give, grant, sell, alienate, convey, and confirme unto the English Planters and Settlers respectively, and to their Severall and respective heires and Assignes for ever. ALL THAT NECK TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND Scittuate, Lyeing, and being, within the MATTACHUSETTS COLONY, in order to their Settling, and Building a Towne there: now knowne by the Name of BOSTON, as it is Invironed and Compassed by the Sea or Salt Water on the North-erly, Easterly, and westerly sides and by the Line of the Towne of Roxbury on the Southerly side, with all the rivers, Harbours, Bayes, Creekes, Coves, flatts and appurtenances whatsoever thereunto belonging. As also severall other outlands belonging unto the s<sup>d</sup> Towne on the Southerly and Easterly sides of CHARLES RIVER. And the Island Called DEER ISLAND, Lyeing about Two Leagues Easterly from the said Towne of Boston, betweene Pudding Point Gutt and the Broad Sound soe called, s<sup>d</sup> Island Containeing One Hundred and Sixty or Two Hundred Acres of Land more or Less; with the privileges and appurtenances thereunto belonging. WHICH SAID NECK & LANDS have since been Distributed and granted out among themselves into particular Alotments and other conveniences, and given, alienated, and Transferred, to and from one another, haveing been peaceably & quietly possessed, used occupied and Enjoyed for the Space of about fiftty & ffive yeares last past by the said ffirst Grantees y<sup>r</sup> heires Successo<sup>rs</sup> & assigns And now stand quietly and peaceably possessed thereof at this day. WHEREFORE I the said Charles Josias als Josias Wampatuck Sachem and William Hahaton Robert Momentauge and Ahawton Senior — my Councillors (by and w<sup>th</sup> the allowance and advice of William Stoughton and Joseph Dudley Esq<sup>rs</sup> my Prochain Amys & Guardians) as well for the reasons and Considerations abovementiōd as for and in Consideration of a Valuable Summe of Money to me and them in hand well and truly paid by Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson Esq<sup>r</sup>; Mess<sup>rs</sup> Samuel Shrimpton, John Joyliffe, Simon Lynde, John Saffin, Edward Wyllys, Daniel Turel Sen<sup>r</sup>, Henry Allen, John Faireweather, Timothy Prout Sen<sup>r</sup> and Theophilus frary of Boston affores<sup>d</sup>:

for and in the behalfe of themselves and the rest of the Proprietated Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> Towne of Boston abovesaid, the receipt of which s<sup>d</sup> summe of money as ffull and Lawfull Consideration, wee do hereby acknowledge to have received; and thereof, and of every part, and parcel thereof, doe ffully acquitt and discharge the s<sup>d</sup> Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Samuel Shrimpton, John Joyliffe, Simon Lynde, John Saffin, Edward Wyllys, Daniel Turel Sen<sup>r</sup>, Henry Allen, John ffaireweather, Timothy Prout Sen<sup>r</sup>, & Theophilus ffrary, and every of them, their and every of their heires, Executors, Administors & assignes for ever by these pnt<sup>s</sup>. HAVE & hereby DOE for the further confirmation and Ratification of the s<sup>d</sup> Guift, grant, bargaine, or sale of the s<sup>d</sup> Grand Sachem Chicatabut; ffully, freely, and willingly, approve, ratifie, Establish, Enfeoffe, and confirme the Same; and Do also ffully and Absolutely, remise, release, and for ever quitt claime unto the said Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Samuel Shrimpton John Joyliffe Simond Lynd John Saffin Edward Wyllys Daniel Turel Sen<sup>r</sup> Henry Allen John ffaireweather Timothy Prout Sen<sup>r</sup> and Theophilus ffrary their heires and assignes respectively, forever, Soe farr as their owne Severall and respective rights, and Interests are or may bee: And further for and in behalfe of the rest of the Proprietated Inhabitants of s<sup>d</sup> Towne of Boston and precincts thereof severally, and their severall and respective heires and assignes forever; According to the severall Interest, rights, title and propriety which each person respectively hath right unto, and standeth now seized, and possessed of ALL THE AFORES<sup>d</sup> NECK & TRACT OF LAND now called and knowne by the name of the TOWNE OF BOSTON and all other Lands whatsoever, within the s<sup>d</sup> Township or precincts thereof, Easterly and Southerly of and from Charles River; with all and every the Houseing Buildings and Improvements thereupon, and on every part and parcel thereof; And the Island affores<sup>d</sup> called Deer Island and the buildings thereon, w<sup>th</sup> all Harbours, Streams Coves flatts waters, Rivers, Immunities rights benefitts advantages Libertyes priviledges hereditam<sup>s</sup> and appurtenances whatsoever to all & every y<sup>e</sup> afforementioned premisses belonging or in any manner or wise appertaineing: or therew<sup>th</sup> heretofore, or now, used, occupied, or Enjoyed; Also all the Estate right title interest property claime & demand of me the s<sup>d</sup> Charles Josias als Wampatuck and of all and every of my before named Councillors, of in and to the same and every part parcel or member thereof TO HAVE AND TO HOLD all and singular the abovementioned Lands premisses and appurtenances and every part and parcel thereof unto them the said Elisha Cooke, Elisha Hutchinson, Samuel Shrimpton, John Joyliffe, Simond Lynd, John Saffin, Edward Wyllys, Daniel Turel sen<sup>r</sup>, Henry Allen, John ffaireweather, Timothy Prout sen<sup>r</sup>, and Theophilus ffrary their heires and assignes respectively forever for and in behalfe of themselves So far as their owne severall and respective rights are or may be therein; and further for and in behalfe of y<sup>e</sup> severall and respective proprietated Inhabitants of y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Towne and precincts thereof, their severall and respective heires and assignes forever, according to the Interest, title, and propriety, w<sup>ch</sup> each person hath, or

may have just right unto; and standeth now seized & possessed of; And to their only proper use benefit and behoofe forever. FREELY PEACEABLY & QUIETLY without any manner of Reclaime Challenge or Contradiction of me the s<sup>d</sup> Charles Josias als Wampatuck and my abovenamed Councillors or either or any of us our or either or any of our heires Executo<sup>r</sup> Administo<sup>r</sup> or assignes, and without any account Reckoning Answer, Summe or Summes of money in time to come to be made, yielded paid or done. SOE THAT neither I the s<sup>d</sup> Charles Josias als Wampatuck, my Councillors our or either of our heires Executo<sup>r</sup> nor any others by from or under me, us or them or any of them shall or will by any wayes or meanes hereafter have aske, claime, challenge or demand, any Estate, right, title, or Interest of in or to y<sup>e</sup> premisses; or any part, or parcel thereof. BUT are and shall be utterly Excluded and for ever debarred from the same by vertue of these presents. AND I the s<sup>d</sup> Charles Josias als Wampatuck and Councillors affores<sup>d</sup> for us and every of us our and every of our heires Exec<sup>r</sup> Administo<sup>r</sup> and successors respectively, Doe hereby covenant promise grant and oblige unto y<sup>e</sup> aforenamed Grantees their heires Executo<sup>r</sup> Administo<sup>r</sup> and assignes by these presents, to warrant maintaine and defend the aforementioned premisses, all and every part and parcel thereof unto them the s<sup>d</sup> Grantees their heires and assignes forever as afforesaid for and in behalfe of themselves, and others the propriated Inhabitants according to their respective rights and Interests; Against all and every person and persons whomsoever Lawfully claimeing or demanding the same or any part or parcel thereof. And at any time or times hereafter upon demand to give and pass more ffull and ample release confirmation and assurance of all and every the s<sup>d</sup> premisses unto y<sup>e</sup> s<sup>d</sup> Grantees their heires and assignes to y<sup>e</sup> uses afores<sup>d</sup>: and to doe and performe any other act or acts device or devices in the Law necessary or requisite thereunto, as in Law or equity can or may be devised, advised or required IN WITNESS whereof I s<sup>d</sup> Charles Josias als Josias Wampatuck William Hahaton Robert Momentague and Ahawton Sen<sup>r</sup> ——— my Councillors have hereunto Sett our hands and Seales y<sup>e</sup> Nineteenth day of March Anno Dōm<sup>i</sup> One Thousand Six hundred Eighty and ffoure 1684, Annoq. — RR<sup>a</sup> Caroli Secundi Angliæ &c xxxvii.

Signed Sealed and Delivered  
in presence of us  
William Williams  
E. Lyde.

Charles  Josias  
signum  
Ahaw  ton Sen<sup>r</sup> { \* five \*  
signum { seals }  
Willem hahato<sup>n</sup> \* { \*  
his  
Robert  Momentaug  
marke

Charles Josias & William Ahawton Jun<sup>r</sup>, in y<sup>e</sup> Behalf of himself and his father Ahawton Indians Acknowledged y<sup>e</sup> Abovesd writing to be their volluntary Act & Deed March 19<sup>th</sup> 1684. Coram

Jas. Russell, *Assist.*

We underwritten Prochain Amyes and Guardians, to Charles Josias Sachem of the Massachusetts do consent and approve of the aboves<sup>d</sup> confirmation of title and release of clayme.

William Stoughton  
Joseph Dudley

David son & Heir of Sagamore George & in his right having some claym to deer Iland doth hereby for Just Consideration relinquish his right to the Town of Boston of all his right & claym thereto & consents to y<sup>e</sup> aboves<sup>d</sup> Deed of sale as witness his hand & seal  
In presence of us

William Williams  
Benjamin Dowse

Boston ffebruary 1st 1708 Received and Recorded with the Records of Deeds for the County of Suffolk Lib<sup>o</sup> xxiv<sup>o</sup> ffol 101 et se. —

p ADDINGTON DAVENPORT Regist<sup>r</sup>.

[Endorsed on the back]. Josia Sachem & other Indians. Confirmation of the Town of Boston & Lands belonging. dat<sup>d</sup> March 1684.

Mr. DEANE read the following letter which he had received some time ago from Colonel Hoyt of Cincinnati: —

111 Broadway, CINCINNATI, 30 Dec., 1878.

CHARLES DEANE, LL.D., *Corresponding Secretary*  
of the *Massachusetts Historical Society*:

MY DEAR SIR, — To-day I happened to see a copy of the "Boston Herald" of the 26th inst., containing an article on the history of Quincy (Mass.), in which there are some statements about "Goffe the regicide," that may be worth a moment's consideration.

The statements, to which I refer, are, in substance, as follows: that "Goffe" lived some time in Quincy under the assumed name of "Tom Revels"; that the remains of the cellar of his hut are still visible; that his funeral, which took place in Quincy, was attended by the Provincial Governor and other State dignitaries who served as pall bearers, and that on this occasion the hermit's real name and character were revealed; and that a street, now called Goffe street, in that town, was so named for this resident "regicide."

These statements are gravely made, without qualification, as well-known facts. There is no hint, even, that they had their origin in the fancy of some reporter of "ill-considered trifles," or in some chimney corner, or in the *spirit*-"manifestations" of some neighboring inn.

Is there any real foundation for these statements? It may be that there is a local tradition of this sort; but, if so, is it not another instance of the fact that, even in some of the most enlightened parts of New England, historical fables persist in surviving after the amplest evidence has been published showing their falsity? There are not a few stories that once served as texts for affecting oratory, poetry, or homily, which no enlightened writer or speaker will now suffer himself

to repeat as veritable history. You have largely contributed to the work of banishing these idle and legendary stories from our historical literature. Other fictions, equally absurd, still survive; and I doubt not this Quincy-Goffe story is one of them.

It may seem too absurd for serious notice, but can you doubt that this fable will reappear by and by in sober history, unless it is exploded at the start by some one having authoritative influence?

A few years ago I had occasion to investigate the history of the three "regicides" who found refuge in New England, availing myself of such original papers and documents as I could hear of; and I came to the conclusion that, so far, no one of the numerous writers on the subject, — historians, orators, poets, or compilers of school-histories, — had exhausted the sources of reliable information concerning these unfortunate characters. For instance, that exceedingly valuable and interesting volume, the "Mather Papers," published by your Society, furnishes indisputable proof that Goffe did actually quit Hadley, after the death of his co-regicide, Whalley; that he removed to, and was protected in seclusion, in Hartford; and that his new hiding place was known to his friends in Boston, at least. There can be no doubt, I think, that he died in Hartford, or in the immediate vicinity.

This story, that Goffe lived and died in Quincy, must, it seems to me, be classed among those fables that have their origin in the common attempt to find a cause for every effect. There is a street in Quincy called *Goffe* street; and somebody gave currency to the conjecture that the regicide of that name lived and died there. This conjecture at last was transformed into a positive averment to that effect. It is, most likely, an ætiological myth, such as filled the early annals of the Hellenes, and Romans, and of other ancient peoples with legends, — the fabrications of later ages, — destitute of even the shadow of genuine historical tradition; such as the story of Romulus and Remus, of the rape of the Sabines, of the Lacus Curtius, and so forth.

If one had nothing else to do, it would be worth while, perhaps, to run this story back to its hole, even to the "cellar," in Quincy, and find out who this "Tom Revels" was, — who is said to have had the distinguished honor of a burial in the presence of the Governor and other official dignitaries.\*

Very truly yours,

ALBERT H. HOYT.

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\* Dr. William S. Pattee, in his "History of Old Braintree and Quincy," page 540, published since the date of Colonel Hoyt's letter, says in reference to the tradition that Goffe once lived in Quincy: "Much has been written to prove that Goffe, one of the three judges who condemned Charles I., once resided in Old Braintree. This we think is not the case, as they arrived in Boston July 27th, 1660, where they resided until discovered by the officers of the home government, and were obliged to flee from Boston for safety. All authority relates that they went to Hadley, Mass.; also to New Haven, Conn. After searching all recorded evidence, we cannot find the least shadow of proof that they ever domiciled here." — Eds.



The Rev. James Freeman Clarke, D.D., and the Rev. Phillips Brooks, D.D., were elected Resident Members.

The Treasurer announced that the Society had been fortunate enough to secure, at the sale of the Brinley Library, the seventeen interleaved almanacs, with manuscript notes by Chief Justice Sewall. These almanacs cost eight dollars and a half each. He stated also that he had received from the executors of the last will of George Bemis, Esq., the sum of \$1,000, bequeathed to the Society by Mr. Bemis, and that he had made arrangements to pay \$4,000 on the mortgage debt.

The Rev. Mr. HALE read the following paper on the Hessian Flags:—

I wish to ask, Mr. President, if any gentleman can remember, whether as a part of the trophy presented by General Stark to the General Court of Massachusetts after the battle of Bennington, there was ever a German color. Stark does not allude to any in the letter sent with the arms; but I recall a tradition that a color was formerly among the relics which has yielded only to the hand of time and the “restorers.”

At the time when the arrangement of the Old South Meeting House as a Museum of New England History was first seriously proposed, I attempted to bring together a list of the colors or standards of different nations, which might fairly be arranged in trophies on its walls, as tokens of New England triumphs. As Edward Winslow died in Jamaica, after the conquest of that Island, and as New England troops assisted in the reduction of Havannah in 1762, I thought I might claim the Spanish castle and lion. The fleur-de-lis of Louis was fairly won when we took Louisburg. The English colors went down in fair fight when Manly took the “Nancy,” and often afterward. But I recollected, as well, General Stark’s gift to the State of the trophies he took at Bennington, or, as he said, at Wallomsac.

At Bennington the troops whom Stark met, were the light Jägers of Hanau, and a detachment of the Brunswick contingent. At Trenton, in command of Sullivan’s advance, he had already driven in the Hessian pickets, and had an honorable share in the surrender of the whole Hessian force. Brunswick, Hesse and Hanau, were all parts of the Holy Roman Empire, and, as matter of poetry, therefore, I considered that I had a right to claim both for Trenton and for Bennington a victory for New England valor over the nodding eagles of the Roman Empire itself. I made this claim in a little poem which prophecies the decoration of the Old South Museum of History. I said:—

Eagles which Cæsar’s hand had fed,  
Banners which Charlemagne had led  
A thousand years before,  
A dozing empire meanly gave  
To grace a court or serve a slave;—  
Let Brunswick and the Landgrave wave  
Those banners on our shore.

Brunswick and Hesse basely sold  
Eagle and flag for George's gold;  
And in the storm of war,  
In crash of battle, thick and dark,  
Beneath the rifle-shot of Stark,  
The war-worn staves, the crests of gold,  
The scutcheons proud, the storied fold,  
In surges of defeat were rolled.  
So even Roman banners fall  
To screen the time stains on our wall ! \*

In pressing the farther inquiry what were the battle flags of the Brunswick and Hessian contingents, I have received valuable help from my friend, Dr. Luther Parks, who is the friend of the present Baron Riedesel, the descendant, I think, of the Riedesel who accompanied Burgoyne. Dr. Parks was so kind as to submit my question to his friends in Hesse, and has now sent to me a full answer, from the hand of one of them, the distinguished and venerable Major von Pfister, whose studies on the history of the Hessian Jägers are so well known to those interested in military antiquities. I take the liberty to read Major von Pfister's letter in English, but the German is here for the inspection of the Society.

CASSEL, Dec. 23, 1878.

MUCH HONORED SIR,—In answer to your obliging letter of the 14th of this month, I regret not to be able to reply to your inquiries in the desired manner, although it is true that I have occupied myself with the history of the American war of Independence, and more especially with the share that the German-English auxiliary troops took in it. Indeed the first volume of my work (on the subject) appeared several years ago in print; the continuation, however, has been deferred to an indefinite period.

The question about the flag or standard that the Hessian or other German troops carried, is answered by the circumstance that the German auxiliary troops carried only the colors of their own nationality, — and carried no flag as auxiliaries, — nor appeared under any other special flag or standard. Even this statement must be limited, in so far as the English land-troops never carry their flags into battle, and the German light troops never carried any flags at all. The question can therefore only apply to the "closed" [or heavy] German regiments. With these the universal custom was, not to give a general standard to a regiment, but that each *company* carried a special one, which was distinguished by the native colors and coat of arms. With the Hessians this was always a lion rampant, bearing a sword, and striped red and white. The whole thus indicated the Hessian tricolor.

Accept, much honored sir, with indulgence, this very willingly tendered but very limited information, to which I must add my regret that my very advanced age will not permit me to enter more deeply in the history of the Hessian Jägers.

Very respectfully,

VON PFISTER, *Major A. D. C.*

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\* In printing these verses, I avail myself of a kind correction by our associate, Mr. William S. Appleton. — E. E. H.

Upon motion it was voted: That the Secretary communicate to Major von Pfister, A. D. C., the thanks of the Society for his letter on the history of Hessian Regiments.

Mr. JOHN L. SIBLEY recalled to the memory of the older members present the fact that over twenty years ago he had announced at a meeting of the Society, that the late Rev. Dr. John Pierce had left in his care twenty interleaved Triennial Catalogues of Harvard College, containing many manuscript notes. These he was authorized to retain so long as he might need them for his own purposes, and it was understood that he was then to deposit them in the library of this Society.\* He stated that the time for the transfer of these catalogues had arrived, and that he now delivered these books to the Librarian.

The Vice-President announced, for the Committee on publishing the Proceedings, that there was upon the table this morning a new volume, embracing the calendar year 1878, copies of which were ready for delivery to the members.

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\* See Proceedings for June, 1857, p. 205. — Eds.